GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3704
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
IRREGULARITIES IN DUTY FREE SHOPS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of various irregularities in the duty free shops of ITDC;

(b) if so, the details of irregularities noticed during raids conducted by ITDC Vigilance Department at duty free shops;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the functioning of the duty free shops of ITDC; and

(e) if so, the losses suffered by ITDC due to various irregularities and the steps takenby the Government to bring transparency in their functioning?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The irregularities noticed by ITDC Vigilance Division duringsurprise checks on duty free shops are mainly of possessing unaccounted Indian as well as foreign currency; discrepancies in the preparation of cash memos; sale of goods at higher price; bogus sale of duty free goods.

(c): Disciplinary action is taken against the concerned officials as per Corporation`s rules.

(d): ITDC has appointed an independent chartered accountant firm for carrying out special audit of the functioning of duty free shops.

(e): It is not feasible to assess financial loss suffered due to such irregularities. However, necessary instructions have been issued to check irregularities and ensure transparency in the functioning of duty free shops.